

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of March 28, 2003. By this Amendment, claims 1-45 are in this application.

In the Office Action, the claims were rejected as indefinite as failing to properly describe the fluid pressure responsive device – that the device only registered a **decrease** in fluid pressure, rather than an indication of when the pressure exceeded a certain value. The claims (specifically, claims 1, 10, 20, 23, 29 and 38) have now been modified to recite that the pressure sensing device provides an indication of a predetermined **pressure differential** across the element. It is submitted that this is an accurate description of the functioning of the device because it is described that the device is initially in one condition when the system is normal and there is minimal pressure drop across the element; and assumes a second condition when the pressure at the downstream side of the element decreases as the element fills with particulate/contaminants and restricts flow, in order to indicate a necessary filter change (see Page 9, lines 5-12), and that as such, this objection has now been overcome.

Further in the Office Action, dependent claims 12, 17, 20-22, 31 and 35 were indicated allowable if the above objection were overcome, and if they were rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates this indication that these claims contain allowable subject matter. As will be described below, certain changes are being made to claims 10, 23 and 29, to put these claims in condition for allowance. As such, claims 12, 17-22, 31 and 35, which depend either directly or indirectly, respectively, from these claims, should continue to be

allowable, and Applicant has refrained from rewriting them in independent form at the present time.

Focusing now on claims 1, 10, 23 and 29, while Applicant believes that the cited references do not reasonably teach or suggest the present invention, Applicant has now offered certain changes to these claims in order to clearly put these claims in condition for allowance. For example, Marvel, if anything, provides a transparent tube that allows visual inspection of liquid level, and hence the pressure difference across a filter element. There is no "device responsive" to fluid pressure across the element, but rather the fluid merely fills the tube and is inspected as it reaches certain levels marked as "N" and "R". The ball 29 in Marvel appears to be primarily a device to prevent the fluid from draining out of the tube after system shut-down and when the tube is detached from the socket 23. In this respect it is similar to the "tabs" 72, 73 on the fingers 70, 71 of post 68 in the present invention. The ball is not a device that would provide any useful information regarding the pressure differential across the element and an indication that the element needs to be changed. In any case, claims 1, 10, 23 and 29 now recite that the handle/handle rod guides the pressure responsive device within the body and prevents relative rotation of the device with respect thereto. The Marvel reference does not show or suggest this structure. Rather, if anything, the tube of Marvel merely constrains the ball in the X and Y directions, and allows Z direction movement, and rotation. Thus, since claims 1, 10, 23 and 29 patentably distinguishes over Marvel (as well as the other cited references), these claims should now also be allowable.

New claims 41 and 42, which depend from claim 1, bring out further distinguishing features, namely, the openings in the body that receive and support the handle; and the slot through the pressure responsive device that receives the handle. These claim are similar to allowable claims 12, 17 and 35, and should likewise be allowable.

New claims 43-46 likewise should be allowable, as they bring out the spring biased pressure responsive device. This subject matter was indicated allowable in claim 20. Again, Marvel shows no such device.

Claims 2-9, which depend from claim 1; claims 11, 13-16, 18, 19, 21 and 22, which depend from claim 10; claims 24-28 which depend from claim 23; and claims 30, 33-40 which depend from claim 29, should likewise be allowable. It is noted that claims 6, 25 and 32 now recite that the handle directly and physically engages the pressure responsive device; while claims 7 and 26 now also recite that the rod is received and supported within the openings in the body. These are further distinguishing features from the cited art. Again, if anything, the Marvel socket 23 circumferentially surrounds the valve ball – and is not in physical contact therewith or extending through any slot therein.

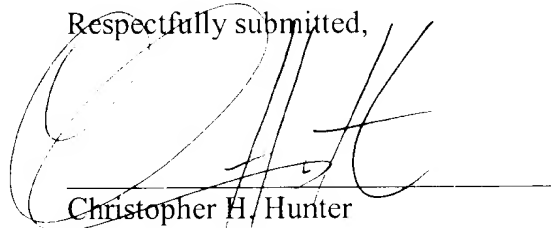
Also, it is noted claim 38 is similar to allowable claim 20, and it is believed this claim should likewise be allowable, and was perhaps overlooked during examination.

Claims 25 and 28 have now been slightly changed to specify an “indicator device”, rather than a “pressure responsive device”, which is believed has better antecedent basis for these claims.

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In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in this application should now be in condition for allowance. Prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Nevertheless, should the examiner continue to believe otherwise, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone, should the Examiner believe it would result in a furtherance of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CH', is written over a horizontal line.

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